

The Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker Centre for the Study of Canada



Report to the Community May 2016 - April 2017



FOSTERING A VISION FOR CANADA

The Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker dreamed of a united Canada, one which would find strength through diversity. The Diefenbaker Canada Centre's (DCC) mandate is to build on this legacy by celebrating citizenship, leadership, human rights and Canada's role in the international community. In addition to preserving and interpreting the core collection of personal artifacts bequeathed by Mr. Diefenbaker to the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), the DCC proudly hosts exhibits that interpret the Canadian experience, with a particular emphasis on the culture and heritage of the nation's many peoples.

The only Prime Ministerial Centre in Canada, the DCC enriches the community's civic and cultural knowledge through:

- ∞ a gallery featuring in-house researched and produced displays, as well as nationally acclaimed travelling exhibits that bring the university and wider public together to explore topics that speak to the heart of our mandate;
- ∞ quality educational programs that encourage youth to investigate the significance of history, rights, freedoms and Canadian governance, while challenging them to be aware of their vital role as active citizens;
- ∞ creating engagement opportunities with the larger community in a cultural space where discussion and debate are encouraged; and
- ∞ attendance at local cultural and community events, providing increased access to Canadian heritage and history.



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“I am a Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship God in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe is wrong, or choose those who shall govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and mankind.”

■ John G. Diefenbaker, House of Commons, July 1, 1960

Strategic Goals and Objectives

Maintain a Well-Managed Collection

- Adhere to professionally recognized museum collection standards resulting in the protection and preservation of the collection
- Maintain policies, procedures and training that are based on current best practices
- Augment the current physical and digital databases to ensure ease of access for museum purposes

Highlight the Importance of Diefenbaker's Legacy and Canadian History

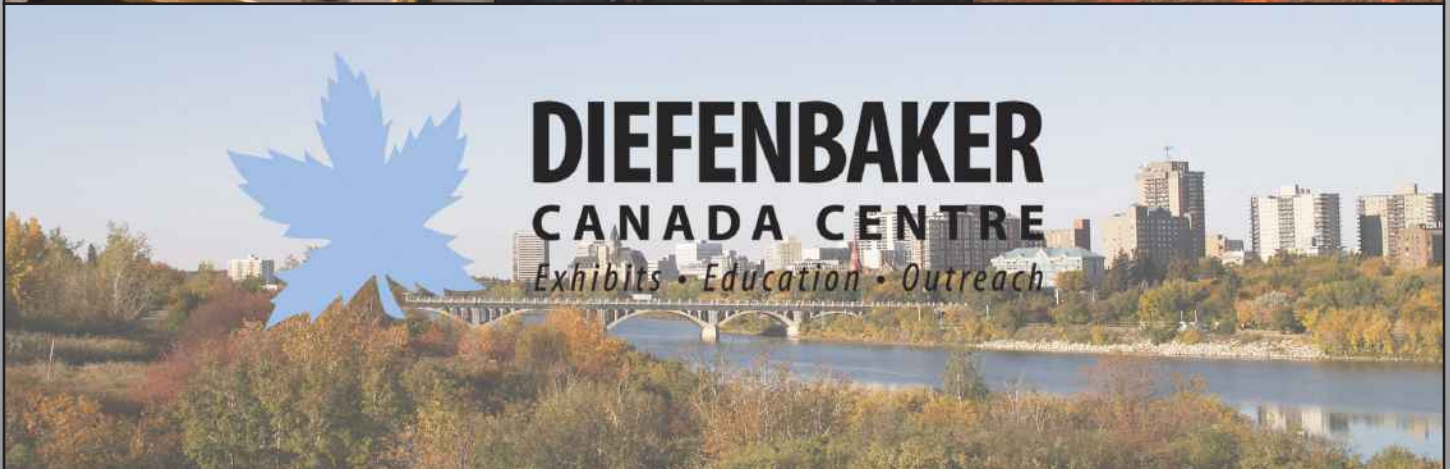
- Manage an exhibit schedule that broadly combines travelling, in-house produced and adjunct exhibitions developed with other cultural facilities and community organizations
- Maintain a dedicated exhibit space that chronicles the life achievements and era of John Diefenbaker
- Create and implement youth programming that inspires active citizenship and engagement with Canadian democracy
- Actively reach out to local, provincial and national organizations to foster partnerships that advance shared goals and values
- Present a rich assortment of artifacts and archival material through permanent and travelling exhibitions
- Provide opportunities for the public to connect with Diefenbaker's political legacy, and broader Canadian history, through outreach events held on campus and within the local community
- Use social media to share historical images, documents and milestones
- Attract new audiences and extend visitor experiences by allowing viewers to immerse themselves in digital exhibits and programs that have been made available online

Provide Inclusive Programs and Events that Engage the Greater Community

- Put learning and discovery at the forefront of all activities, producing high-quality visitor and community engagement
- Offer school and youth programs that are responsive to educator's needs and curriculum outcome requirements
- Deliver customized tours and programming that will appeal to adult and senior audiences, consequently strengthening the connection with diverse community partners
- Develop a stronger relationship with high school and university students
- Be a leading institution that is considered to be a valued cultural asset on the University of Saskatchewan campus, in Saskatoon and in Saskatchewan

Establish a Welcoming and Accessible Environment that Celebrates and Promotes Diversity

- Work to increase cross-cultural understanding through varied exhibit topics that celebrate diversity and inclusivity
- Build, strengthen, and uphold partnerships with local, provincial and national stakeholders
- Attend a variety of community events to promote knowledge of, and engagement with, Canadian history
- Provide well-trained, culturally aware staff who place an emphasis on visitor services and create an engaging and positive atmosphere
- Improve communication strategies to reach a wide range of audiences



About us

The Diefenbaker Canada Center (DCC) offers a distinctively Canadian cultural experience. Education, learning and discovery are foremost in all activities and exhibits. With free admission, affordable programming and interpretive tours, the DCC has created a welcoming and accessible environment. This fosters engagement that bridges the gap between the university and the greater Saskatoon community, and between all citizens, irrespective of background. Welcoming well over ten thousand local, national, and international visitors annually, the DCC is a vital part of Saskatoon's cultural landscape.

The Gallery

The gallery space includes a semi-permanent Diefenbaker exhibit, replica rooms of the Prime Minister's Office and the Privy Council Chamber as they were during Diefenbaker's tenure, and the Stone Gallery, in which we feature in-house produced exhibits and host prestigious travelling exhibitions that bring the community together to critically discuss topics that speak to the heart of the DCC's mandate.

Replica Rooms

The DCC features two replica rooms that capture Canadian political life as it was during the latter 1950s and early 1960s. The Prime Minister's Office depicts the East Block Office as it appeared during Diefenbaker's tenure as Prime Minister. It features original and reproduction furniture, as well as personal items belonging to Diefenbaker. The Privy Council Chamber illustrates the cabinet meeting room, featuring replications of Confederation era furniture and original signed photographs of the first twelve Canadian Prime Ministers. The replica rooms contain iPads, with speech excerpts, room descriptions, and a broad selection of historical photographs, adding an interactive component for visitors.

Little Stone Schoolhouse (LSS) Open May - October

The Original Victoria School (circa 1887) is widely recognized as Saskatoon's first public building. As stewards of this Municipal Heritage Site and Provincial Heritage Property, the DCC offers interpretative youth programming, and annual public open houses.

Campus Tour Program

The DCC offers comprehensive historical walking tours of the U of S campus, renowned as one of the most beautiful campuses in Canada. Additionally, we lead customized and themed tours that further engage the public and special interest groups.

Educational Programming

The DCC's curriculum-based programming, which targets middle-year students, fosters an understanding of Canadian history and challenges youth to be aware of their vital role as active citizens in today's society. Full and half-day programs explore the Canadian system of democracy, and the importance of human rights and freedoms.

Fostering a Vision for Canada: The Diefenbaker Legacy (on-going)

Fostering a Vision for Canada presents the life and legacy of the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, from childhood, through his career as a lawyer, struggle to be elected into public office, to the end of his tenure. This exhibit illustrates the achievements and challenges Diefenbaker faced as the thirteenth Prime Minister of Canada, and charts his dedication to human rights and equality. Further, the exhibit features a number of notable artefacts, including personal belongings, campaign memorabilia, and gifts received throughout his political career.



Terry Fox: Running to the Heart of Canada (February - June 2016)



This travelling exhibition produced by the Canadian Museum of History in partnership with the Terry Fox Centre explored Terry Fox's impact and continuing legacy, marking the 35th anniversary of his cross-Canada run.

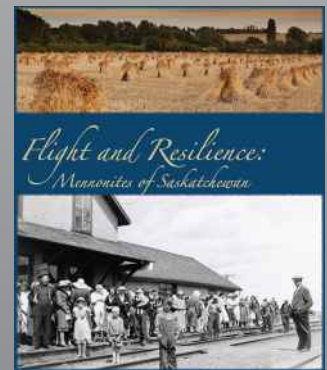
Along the Road to Freedom: Mennonite Women of Courage and Faith (February - July 2016)



This compelling travelling exhibit was from the Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery. Though art and text it told the dramatic stories of Mennonite women and their families, exploring the love, courage, humility, and faith that led them through the despair, horror, and loss that punctuated their escape from the Soviet Union.

Flight and Resilience: Mennonites of Saskatchewan (February - July 2016)

This adjunct exhibit, produced by the DCC in collaboration with the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan's Mennonite Central Committee, shared three Saskatchewan women's stories. Connecting with the themes in *Along the Road to Freedom*, this exhibit also explored the Mennonite community's continued efforts to globally support people in need.





WOMEN'S • SUFFRAGE • IN • SASKATCHEWAN
 LE • SUFFRAGE • DES • FEMMES • EN • SASKATCHEWAN



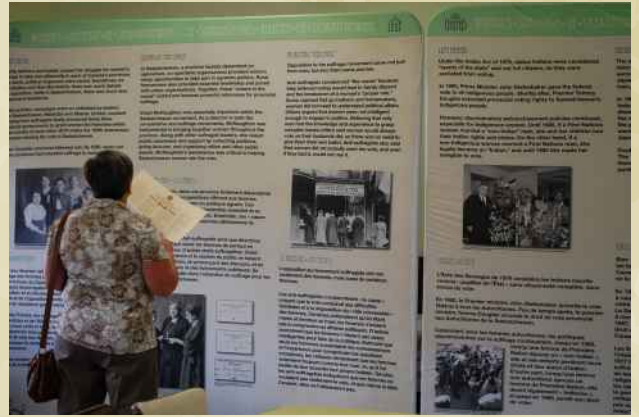
This project was funded in part by Canadian Heritage's Museums Assistance Program. This support enabled the DCC to develop and produce a multi-faceted exhibit that focused on women's history – and was done from the perspective of women.

Sisters United commemorates the centennial of suffrage in Saskatchewan, highlighting how the right to vote was achieved, and the movement of women wanting to be recognized as persons. Though the personal stories of the seven featured suffragists, it showcases women who were strong leaders and activists within their community, at a time when this was not common or encouraged. *Sisters United* demonstrates the growth of a province and the emergence of a movement that resulted in an important step towards women's equity rights, greater social reform and political justice.

The project includes a full-scale (1500 sq ft) exhibit as well as two smaller versions that can adapt for travel to various sized venues. Following its successful debut at the DCC, *Sisters United* was hosted by the Melfort and District Museum and will open in Moose Jaw in June of 2017, with plans to travel throughout 2018.

During the summer of 2016, DCC docents accompanied the condensed, mobile version of *Sisters United* out to festivals and events across the province. By presenting the display in non-traditional venues the DCC was able to bring the museum out into the community, reaching a wider and more diverse audience. Thousands of patrons from Saskatoon and surrounding area as well as in Esterhazy, Maple Creek, Yorkton, Lloydminster, Nipawin, Regina, Langham, Wakaw, and the Seager Wheeler Farm all offered exceeding positive feedback, demonstrating the impact and significance of these community outreach projects.





Deo et Patriae — For God and Country: The University of Saskatchewan and The Great War (April - December 2017)

This exhibit project was funded, in part by Canadian Heritage's World War Commemorations Community Fund. This facilitated the creation of a large scale in-house produced exhibit, along with a condensed version to travel to outreach events and smaller venues, as well as a Great War themed walking tour of the U of S campus and tailored educational programming.

The *Deo et Patriae* exhibit examines how the Great War profoundly altered the University of Saskatchewan and irrevocably transformed its sense of identity as an institution. By highlighting the achievements and sacrifices of individuals, it interprets and commemorates the U of S community's role in the war effort. By unravelling the compelling stories of individual students, faculty and staff, visitors are provided with the opportunity to gain a richer and deeper understanding of the impact that the Great War had on the U of S, the role that the University played in the War, and the legacy that is indelibly evident in the memorials throughout campus.

Vimy – Battle. Memorial. Icon. (April - December 2017)

The DCC was an inaugural stop for this travelling exhibit from the Canadian War Museum. Through text, maps and images this exhibit highlights how the battle was planned, fought, and won; how Canadians have commemorated the victory and loss; and how Vimy has become a powerful national symbol. Hosting this exhibit during the centenary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge created an exceptional opportunity for the DCC to provide local visitors with a direct connection to a pivotal event in Canadian military history.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The DCC provides high-quality, curriculum-based educational programming that is delivered to thousands of students every year. These programs engage youth in important conversations about civics, history, and human rights. Students are encouraged to think creatively and draw attention to how their learning may be applied in everyday life. Interactive and dynamic, activities aim to inspire students to take ownership of their rights and to enjoy the benefits of citizenship.

Primary Years Programming

The Little Stone Schoolhouse Program

Constructed in 1887, the original Victoria School was moved stone by stone to the University of Saskatchewan campus in 1911. The DCC annually opens this heritage site, providing students with an immersive, interactive look at education in the early 20th century.

Pioneer Life

Pioneer Life is an interactive, hands-on program that focuses on immigration and adaptation by early settlers to their new environment. By both handling and considering the purpose of historical artefacts, students are able to explore the experiences of Saskatchewan pioneers and then connect and contrast them to modern everyday life.



Choose Your Mascot

Through an election simulation to select a mascot that best embodies the spirit of their class, students learn about the significance of voting and the democratic process in Canada, laying a foundation for future civic engagement.



MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMMING

Your Voice Matters: Building a Better Saskatchewan (YVM)



The YVM program was developed by the Diefenbaker Canada Centre (DCC) in partnership with Elections Saskatchewan in 2014. Provincially focused it highlights the historical foundations of government, the political system, and electoral infrastructure. The full-day program is made up of four modules: Your Province, Your Power; Get Involved; Reasoning out Responsibility; and Raise your Voices, making up a full-day of programming. Modules have been designed to engage students while meeting numerous Social Studies outcomes and indicators, directly connected to the Broad Areas of Learning in the Saskatchewan curriculum.

"I learned how our government works and how to make more informed decisions when voting."

Nicola, 13

"I learned that a lot of things you do involves politics."

Tiana, 12



Democracy to Active Citizenship (D2AC)

Through completing the four modules of this program students will comprehensively examine Canadian rights and freedoms, political institutions, and the electoral system. Students are encouraged to freely discuss these complex topics and are given the chance to apply their newfound knowledge through engaging and thought-provoking simulations.

Featured Educational Programming

Building on themes presented in the *Sisters United: Women's Suffrage in Saskatchewan* exhibit, students investigate examples of women-driven Canadian activism, past and present. Students use this research, together with discussions on political power and authority, the importance of perspective, and the impacts that suffrage activists had, to compile their findings and produce their own mock Grain Growers' Guide.



EXHIBIT OPENINGS

Sisters United: Women's Suffrage in Saskatchewan

Sunday October 2nd marked the beginning of Women's History Month in Canada. Connecting with the national theme, "Because of Her" the DCC took the opportunity to host an event officially celebrating the *Sisters United* exhibit. The program focused on the compelling stories of the suffragists featured in the exhibit who, as activists led the call for change in Saskatchewan. Featuring remarks from the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Dr. Lesley Biggs, a Women's and Gender Studies Professor, and Dr. Patti McDougall, Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning at the U of S. These leaders of today highlighted the successes and challenges faced by the suffragists and the continued work towards advancing women's rights.



Deo et Patriae — For God and Country: The University of Saskatchewan and the Great War

On April 9th, Vimy Ridge Day, the DCC hosted the official opening of both the *Deo et Patriae — For God and Country: The University of Saskatchewan and the Great War* as well as *Vimy – Battle. Memorial. Icon.* This commemorative program included an address by Professor Bill Waiser, along with remarks from local, provincial and federal dignitaries. Local Army and Air Cadets led the audience in a moving act of remembrance, including reading out personal letters sent by U of S students and faculty from the front lines during the Great War.



OUTREACH, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Community Campus Tours (June-August 2016)

The DCC offered free weekly interpretive walking tours of the U of S campus. A new tour examining the Great War's impact on campus was debuted in the summer of 2016.

PotashCorp Children's Festival (June 2016)

Taking the Sisters United exhibit out to this festival afforded DCC docents the chance to interact with a younger than usual audience. Thousands of curious young minds tried out trivia and learned about the history of suffrage in Saskatchewan.

U of S Staff Appreciation Picnic (June 14)

Hundreds of staff, students, faculty and visitors from the University community interacted with DCC exhibits and displays during this event.

Optimist Canada Day in the Park (July 2016)

The Canada Day celebrations attract a diverse crowd including youth, newcomers, and Indigenous visitors. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed family activities including trivia, and the Sisters United replica objects and mobile displays.

LSS Open House (July and August 2016)

DCC docents dressed in period costume open the Little Stone Schoolhouse to the public for one week each month. Visitors explored the history of education and locally built heritage.



OUTREACH, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Diefenbaker Youth History and Governance Camps (July and August 2016)

These week-long camps for grades four to nine focused on Canadian history, governance, and politics. Camp themes included “Demonstrating Discontent: Protest and Social Movements in Canada,” and “Media and the Message: Communications in Canadian History.” Campers participated in debates and activities that aimed to further develop their understanding of past and present social issues in Canada.

Saskatoon Exhibition (August 2016)

The DCC has been attending the Saskatoon Exhibition since 2011. We brought the mobile *Sisters United* exhibit and were part of the Showcase of Arts Hall. The Ex draws a diverse audience, providing the opportunity to connect with many first-time visitors to the DCC.

2016 World Indigenous Business forum (August 2016)

The DCC was delighted to have both Wa Pa Ha Ska and Diefenbaker’s replica headdress as part of the display at a gathering of Indigenous business leaders from across the globe. Attendance at events like this further demonstrates that museums and culture can be a key part of any occasion.

White Buffalo Youth Lodge Carnival (August 2016)

This was our second year attending the WBYL Carnival and we once again had a great time playing trivia with the kids and giving out small patriotic prizes. This event enabled the DCC to reach out to an underserved demographic and to increase the profile of the DCC to organizations that serve youth.



Campus Orientation Expo (September 2016)

The DCC set up a booth to inform new U of S students of the cultural programming and opportunities available at the DCC.

Word on the Street (September 2016)

The DCC was able to reach many families at this festival. Visitors enjoyed our mobile *Sisters United* display, trivia, and the Suffrage coin exchange.



OUTREACH, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



Man Show meets Woman's World (October 2016)

Docents took our Sisters United mobile exhibit to this combined festival, the Man Show and Women's World events. Replica artefacts provided visitors with stronger experiences with tangible history.

Ghost Walks (October 2016)

In partnership with Alumni Relations at the U of S, the DCC offered U of S campus tours that focused on paranormal stories. The popular tours connected attendees to campus history in a fun and informal way.

Heritage Festival (February 2017)

DCC docents brought two mobile displays, *Wa Pa Ha Ska* and *Sisters United* to this event. The DCC engaged with hundreds of community members, including families, youth, seniors, and newcomers, who left with a newly gained interest in the DCC's exhibits and outreach programs.

Market Mall Outreach (February 2017)

Our outreach coincided with National Flag Day which allowed us to highlight our *A Leaf of Their Own: Searching for a National Flag* display, along with *Sisters United*. This event connected us with a predominantly senior audience in an inviting setting that increased access to local history.

USASK Tunnel Outreach (March 2017)

A booth with the *Sisters United* display was set up in a high traffic area, DCC docents interacted with their student peers to raise interest in our current and upcoming exhibits.

Prince Albert Outreach – Focus on Women Trade Show (March 2017)

Many women and their families were excited to see important historical information on display.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES

MAY 2017 - APRIL 2018

Educational programming

The DCC will continue to offer high quality educational programming to students in Saskatoon and Area. New programming connecting with the Great War exhibits will be added.

History Travels 2017

As part of the Canada 150 celebrations, DCC docents will travel out to local festivals and community events in Saskatoon. The History Travels 2017 project will create opportunities for diverse groups to experience Canadian history.

Optimist Canada Day in the Park (July 2017)

Unveiling of the new mobile exhibit *Sisters United* will take place in Diefenbaker Park on July 1st. In addition an outdoor display booth will have all-ages activities and onsite docents to answer questions and interact with visitors.

Diefenbaker Youth History and Governance Camps (July-August 2017)

The DCC will hold two week long youth governance camps that focus on Canada's history, governance, and politics.

LSS Open House (July-August 2017)

Public open house dates provide increased access for the general public; on-site interpreters in period costume provide a positive and engaging experience.

Community Campus Tours (June-August 2017)

Free walking tours highlighting the architecture and history of the U of S campus are offered to the public biweekly. Summer 2017 will feature the Great War themed tour.

Word on the Street (September 2017)

The DCC will be able to reach many families at this festival.

Hockey (Opening January, 2018)

A new travelling exhibit from the Canadian Museum of History.

Hockey: A Common Goal (Opening January, 2018)

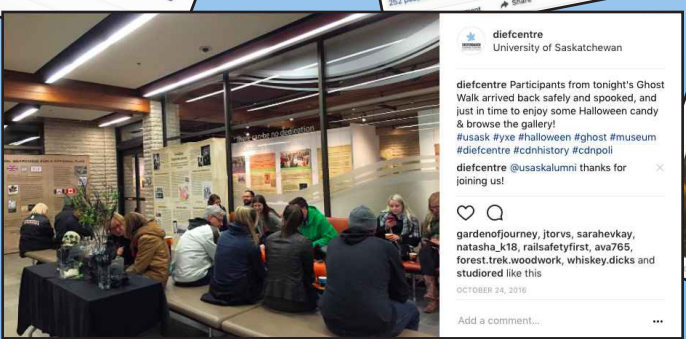
The DCC will produce an adjunct exhibit that explores the importance of hockey in Saskatchewan.

Heritage Festival (February 2018)

Sisters United will be the featured display, this one day event creates an opportunity for high engagement with local citizens.

SOCIAL MEDIA

#cndpoli #Saskatooning #usask
#Vimy100 #MuseSocial
#BeBoldForChange #yxe
#SuffrageSelfie #vimyday
#IWD17 #TIH #suffrage
#DeoPatriae #museumsdomore
#Canada150
#behindthescenes
#VotesForWomen
#exploresask
#Sask



"I have one love - Canada; one purpose - Canada's greatness; one aim - Canadian unity from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

*From nomination speech at the,
1956 PC leadership convention*

John Diefenderfer



The Diefenbaker Canada Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of our many funding and partner organizations.



With museum exhibits, educational programs, tours, and outreach activities there is a lot more to see and learn at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre than you thought.

Learn more 306.966.8384 usask.ca/diefenbaker